

WATER AUDIT CHECKLIST

What You Can Do To Help Save Water Indoors

IN THE BATHROOM

✓ **Check all faucets, pipes, and toilets periodically for leaks.** A faucet drip or invisible leak in the toilet will add up to 15 gallons of water a day, or 105 gallons a week, which adds up to 5,475 gallons of wasted water a year.

✓ **Install water saving shower heads.** Low flow shower heads deliver 2.5 gallons of water per minute or less and are relatively inexpensive.

✓ **Take shorter showers or take a bath.** Simply taking shorter showers will save gallons of water. For long exposures to the water, a partially filled bath instead of a shower will use less water.

✓ **Check into a low flow toilet.** Ultra-low flush toilets use only about 1.6 gallons of water per flush. Using these could cut indoor water use by as much as 50%. Older toilets use 3.5 to 5 gallons per flush.

✓ **Check for toilet leaks.** Once a year, check for toilet leaks. Remove the toilet tank lid and drip 10 drops of food coloring into the tank. After 10 to 15 minutes check for color in the toilet bowl. If you see any color, your toilet has a leak.

✓ **Install high efficiency, low flow faucet aerators.** Older faucets use between 3 and 7 gallons per minute. Low-flow faucet aerators use no more than 2.5 gallons of water per minute.

✓ **Fix leaky faucets immediately.** A leaky faucet may simply need a new washer. Small faucet leaks can waste 20 gallons of water a day. Large leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.

✓ **Turn off the water while shaving, brushing teeth, etc.** Don't let the water run when you brush your teeth, wash your face or hands, or shave. This can save 3 to 7 gallons a minute.

✓ **Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.** Use a wastebasket instead of the toilet for tissues and other bits of trash.

IN THE KITCHEN & LAUNDRY ROOM

✓ **Fill your dishwasher.** Your dishwasher uses the same amount of water whether it is full or just partially full of dishes, so be sure to fill it.

✓ **Keep drinking water in your refrigerator.** Don't let the faucet run until the water cools down. Instead, keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator.

✓ **Don't let the water run while rinsing vegetables and dishes.** Before rinsing, put the sink stopper in place instead of running the water. If you need to use the garbage disposal, release the used sink water as the disposal is turned on.

✓ **Defrost food in refrigerator.** When defrosting food, plan ahead to thaw it in the refrigerator or microwave oven instead of thawing under running water.

✓ **Select proper water level for laundry.** Unlike your dishwasher, we can control the amount of water used by our clothes washers. Select the proper water level for each load of laundry. A front load washing machine uses 1/3 less water than a top loading machine.

✓ **Reuse fish tank water.** Use fish tank water on your household plants. This will provide a nice fertilizer and save water.